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Advocate of Peace

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STERILIZING PREPAREDNESS

The following proposal is now before the Naval Committees of the Senate and the House. Senator Shafroth has notified the Senate that he will move such an amendment to the Naval Appropriation Bill should it reach the Senate without the provisions appearing in this amendment. It is hoped that the amendment may be attached also to all fortification appropriation bills.

The amendment reads as follows:

"SEC. —. That if at any time before the appropriations authorized by this Act shall have been contracted for there shall have been established, with the co-operation of the United States of America, an international tribunal or tribunals competent to secure peaceful determinations of all international disputes, and which shall render unnecessary the maintenance of competitive armaments, then and in that case such naval expenditures as may be inconsistent with the engagements made in the establishment of such tribunal or tribunals shall be suspended, if so ordered by the President of the United States."

It is proposed to press the plan until the international organization suggested is a fact. This measure, if enacted into law, would, in the name of the American people, say to all the world:

"We, a powerful nation, prefer peaceful settlement of international differences. Will you have it so? Upon your answer hangs the question whether or not the world shall create an armament greater than any dreamed of heretofore; an armament, offensive, or defensive, which must upset all previous notions of the 'Balance of Power' and become a new menace to the peace of the world."

Whether or not the declaration will "moralize our militarism," and "sterilize our 'Preparedness' of all taint of aggression," as claimed by Mr. Oscar T. Crosby, father of the amendment, it will at least put our plans for an international tribunal officially upon the political map. We respectfully urge that every opponent of war express to his Congressmen his interest in this amendment at once.

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

*"The biggest job in the world today is that of doing away with war.
"Its completion would be the greatest event in history.
"It is the job that mankind most longs to see finished.
"Its essentials are as simple as setting up a bank in a new town.
"Only a few have been working at it.
"Here is the only constructive plan that has come out of a chaotic and war-ridden time.
"Would you be a partner in this business of making permanent world peace?"*

These are sentences featured in an article entitled "The Way to Permanent Peace," by William Atherton Du Puy, which appeared in many newspapers of our country on Sunday, March 19th.

After tracing the birth of the peace movement and outlining the principles involved in the establishment of a real world court, the article shows how near the world was in 1914 to effective international organization in terms of a substitute for war. To quote:

"Therefore it is held that the logical next step toward world peace lies in the development and perfection of The Hague conference as an international lawmaking body and of the Permanent Court of Arbitral Justice as a Supreme Court of the world to pass upon international disputes and to decide them in accordance with international law. . . .

"The American Peace Society, as the pioneer in the movement toward world peace, as the nucleus around which have rallied the world's greatest authorities upon international co-operation, believes the psychological moment is near, that the time is at hand when the peoples of all the world will listen to a program for settling disputes without war. . . .

"The American Peace Society has no plan for ending the present war, but it would arouse all the world to the necessity of reconvening The Hague conferences as soon as the conflict ends, of establishing the Permanent Court of Arbitral Justice. . . .

"The Society holds that this may be accomplished only through a campaign of education. . . . In this campaign of world education the American Peace Society expects to have to spend millions of dollars. These millions it hopes will be subscribed by a public which has come to appreciate the vast possibility that present conditions offer for doing in one act the greatest good that has ever been accomplished since time began. It therefore offers to every man an opportunity to become a partner in the accomplishment of that great good. It wants to gather a huge fund of money to be expended along educational lines, and it pledges that every cent of that money will be so expended."